

Barrie Arboretum

Barrie's Garden Club developed and maintained the Arboretum between 1974 and 2007, in co-operation with the City of Barrie. Responsibility for the site was turned over to the City in 2008. It is truly one of the loveliest outdoor spaces in the City of Barrie.

A place to relax and enjoy nature! The Arboretum offers a welcome "walk in the country" in the middle of Barrie. Follow the Trans Canada Trail to explore our 14-acre site and trails that connect to the forested Kidd Creek ravine, part of the much larger, passive-use Sunnidale Park.

A place to learn! There are more than 1,800 trees and shrubs, many labeled with their common and scientific names. Come to view mature specimens before purchasing a new tree or shrub for your garden. Science and horticultural students use the labeled plants to help in their studies, and school children come on field trips to learn about nature.

A place to discover! Discover theme gardens that have been developed in conjunction with a variety of community sponsors:

- **The Barrie Metals Pavilion** - was designed by local Architect John Jeffery to commemorate the City of Barrie's sesquicentennial as well as the 130th anniversary of the Garden Club and the 30th anniversary of the Arboretum. (*Sponsored by Barrie Metals, Botanix and others*)
- **Butterfly Garden** – is filled with plants that attract and feed butterflies. Look carefully and you will find caterpillars, chrysalises as well as a dazzling array of butterfly species. Every year, the numbers and varieties increase. (*Started with Earthday funding from Enbridge*)
- **Conifer Display** - has many different kinds and sizes of conifers laid out in a semi-formal garden complete with a stone pathway. (*Sponsored by the Barrie Huronia Rotary Club.*)
- **Lilac Dell** – comes alive with purple hues in June. First to bloom is the common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris* and last is the Japanese Tree Lilac, *Syringa amurensis japonica*. Every lilac species has a different fragrance. Come and smell them all! (*Most specimens donated by Maurice W. MacLaren*)
- **Nut Grove** – is the most northerly collection of nut trees in Ontario. You will find shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), northern pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) and butternut (*Juglens sinera*), and you will never forget the smell of the sweet chestnut (*Castanea detata*) when it is in bloom! (*Most specimens donated by James and Helen Savage*)
- **Pathway Labyrinths** – are an ancient and a modern tool for walking meditation and healing. Our two turf labyrinths are sheltered by the magnificent white pines at the back of the Arboretum. (*Maintained by Earthdrum*).
- **Street Bed** – is a demonstration of drought-tolerant, salt-tolerant plants under the Arboretum sign on Sunnidale Road. Arboretum staff voted it to be our most improved bed for 2003! (*Sponsored, in part, by the City of Barrie*)
- **Tall Grass Prairie** – is an ecosystem of grasses and flowering plants that are native to Simcoe County. Learn how to make your yard more attractive to our native songbirds, butterflies and other insects! (*Sponsored, in part, by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources*).
- **Tranquility Garden** – is a sunken garden that encircles a central water feature. It is a place for quiet contemplation where sculptural arbors incorporate the memorial plaques of the

Arboretum benefactors. *(Developed in conjunction with the Ferragine family.)*

- **Vine Display** – is a huge trellis showcasing a wide variety of hardy vines, ranging from the native bittersweet to the exotic hydrangea with flowers the size of dinner plates. *(Sponsored, in part, by the Army Navy Airforce Veterans, Unit 365.)*
- **Xeriscape Garden** – was originally a sand trap from the old golf course. It now displays a variety of grasses, cacti and other plants that thrive in a dry environment. This garden continues to expand as we add new drought-tolerant, garden worthy plants. *(Sponsored, in part, by the City of Barrie.)*

Arboretum Update

Construction

It seemed that we were under construction for most of the 2003 season... and work will be continuing into 2004.

- Barrie's three Rotary Clubs (Barrie, Huronia and Kempenfelt) combined forces to construct 500 meters of the **Trans Canada Trail** from the corner of Sunnidale and Cundles Roads through the Arboretum to link up with the portion of the trail constructed previously by the City of Barrie. In addition, they generously constructed a 350-meter loop trail linking the new pavilion to the Butterfly Garden, Tranquility Garden and the steps from Sunnidale Road, where the ramp was graded and widened to improve wheelchair access. Bulldozers and dump trucks worked for four days in July before over 70 Rotarians arrived to spend a Saturday raking and rolling. Our portion of the TCT has been registered and the signs will go up next spring.
- The Arboretum is the site for one of the MacLaren Shore/lines finest sculptures, **Cabin Fever**. Artist Patrick Dougherty drew his inspiration from the site as he created this unique structure from maple, dogwood and willow saplings with staff and volunteers from the MacLaren Art Centre for two weeks in August. The sculpture has attracted people from all over Ontario to view the sculpture nestled between the Tall Grass Prairie and the Lilac Dell. Because it is made of saplings, the estimated life span of Cabin Fever is two to three seasons.
- Construction of the **Barrie Metals Pavilion** began in late summer and is still underway in late November. It takes an unbelievable amount of equipment (cranes, backhoes, bobcats etc. etc.) to construct an original structure that will look as if it has been there forever. Architect John Jeffery not only designed the pavilion, but volunteered his time to frame the cedar roof, with assistance from our members Brian Gregory and John Clarke. When the structure is completed next spring, we will be calling upon our members to participate in a "Dig-In" to install the gardens.

Co-operation

Although the Garden Club takes the lead at the Arboretum, we could not do it without the assistance of a number of other organizations. During the past season, we continued to develop and nurture mutually beneficial co-operative relationships.

- The City of Barrie continued to provide a riding lawn mower, compost, the assistance of a forestry crew to help with major pruning projects and a funding grant.
- As part of the celebrations for the opening of the 100th Home Depot in Canada, our local Home Depot brought its employees to the Arboretum to contribute 100 hours of volunteer time. They spent a morning with BGC staff and volunteers from the Garden Club and EAB/Living Green removing sod and putting wood chip tree wells around our trees.
- One of our summer staff received wage subsidies through the HRDC summer career placement program. Another was paid through the Summer Work Exchange Program.
- Earthdrum volunteers maintained our meditative labyrinths.

Commitment

Keeping the Arboretum running smoothly requires a huge commitment. Last season's staff did a terrific job of keeping the Arboretum looking terrific, despite all of the construction:

- Monica Gubert-Gomes co-ordinated the site as she completed her co-op placement for the Seneca College Environmental Landscaping Diploma. Monica intends to return for the 2004 season, upon graduation.
- Michael Burton returned for his second season before entering the Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario.
- Mylene Gaudreau, a high school student from Quebec came to us through the federal governments Summer Student Work Exchange Program.

The Garden Club's two major fundraising events, the Plant Sale and the Garden Tour, provide a good proportion of the funds needed to care for the Arboretum, including the salaries of our staff. Thus our members help out in many ways, whether they know it or not! Purchasing t-shirts, helping at the dig-ins and adopting garden beds are all ways that our members directly contribute to the Arboretum.

Any Garden Club member interested in being more closely involved with any of our projects is welcome to sit on the Arboretum Committee or one of its sub-committees. The Committee meets four times during the winter months to set out the direction and projects for the coming season. At the time of writing, the following will be part of the Arboretum Committee:

Vivian Bowman	John Clarke	Dennielle Dietrich	Bob Doner
Joanne Hards	Brian Gregory	Sylvia Guergis	Diane Helika
Rose Ann Hunter	Tom Keys	Barb Marshall	Gwen Petreman
Jennifer Quson	Rick Reeves	Barb Robillard	Joyce
Thompson	Jean Varep	Peggy Wong	

Lee McLaughlin will continue to craft the memorial and tree plaques.

Arboretum Donors 2003

Barrie's Garden Club would like to recognize the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions to the Arboretum in the year 2003. Your contributions help make the Arboretum the wonderful site that it is today. Thank you.

Benefactors of the Arboretum

Jim and Mary Bailey

In memory of Edwin Laws:

Constance Merriam

In memory of Margaret and Jeffery M. Roddis:

K.L. and Doreen Roddis

Friends of the Arboretum

Gertrude Bezner

Vivian Bowman

Jane Brasher

L. Broomfield

Nancy Bumstead

Cathy and Bob Caville

Margaret Cooper

Sylvia Guergis

William Hasset

Margaret Horvath

Alice McLean

Barbara Robillard

Joanne Scharf

Canon John Spears

Ellen Spencer

Lorna Synott

In memory of John McKee:

Mary Ellen Gignac

In memory of Margot Anderson:

John and Bonnie Carter

Dr. Peter Dean

Michelle Degeer

Elizabeth Foster

Robert and Barbara Graham

Eugene and Rosemary Gray

Clarinda Hamilton

Richard and Louise Leroux

Betty and Don Lillow

Jane Rumble

Karen Simmons

Jean and Hondo Varep

Beverly and Terry Waterhouse

Barrie Metals Pavilion

A legacy for the future, located in Barrie's Arboretum

Barrie's Garden Club's proposal for a unique shelter in the Arboretum was selected as the City of Barrie's Sesquicentennial Signature Project. Alfred Hambsch of Barrie Metals came onboard as the naming sponsor for the pavilion in early 2003. The pavilion, now under construction, will provide a place for adults and children to learn how to care for their environment through sound gardening practices, shelter from the sun and rain for Arboretum visitors to take shelter from the sun and rain and a center for interpretation of the history of Sunnidale Park.

We wish to thank those who have pledged to support the project and the following individuals and companies who made generous contributions in 2003:

Pavilion Name

Alfred Hambsch, Barrie Metals

Pavilion Benefactor

Joyce Angeloff

John Jeffery

Ethel and Lorne McEvoy

Pavilion Friend

Barbara and Robert Armstrong

Barrie Press (1994) Inc

Judy Clarke

Joan Clayden

Lorna Daniel

Wendy Hicks

Gwen Petreman

M.B. Taylor

Catherine Tummon

Mike – then you can go on to the “how you can help section on page 29. But, it will have to be amended to take out the “name the pavilion” category as that is already taken.